



WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L      R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

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### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-sixth Annual Report on the Health of your District.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	3,447
Population Census 1921	..	..	..	..	..	9,102
" " 1931	..	..	..	..	..	11,389
Estimated Population 1937 (mid-year)	..	..	..	..	..	12,570
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1937	..	..	..	..	..	3,965
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£57,665
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£220

#### Social Conditions.

The staple industries are the manufacture of Hosiery and of Boots & Shoes.

#### Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate	M. 118	F. 127	Total	245
" illegitimate	M. <u>2</u>	F. <u>6</u>	Total	<u>8</u>
Totals:-	<u>120</u>	<u>133</u>		<u>253</u>
Birth-rate	..	..	..	20.1
Birth-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	14.9
Still-births	..	..	6 (all legitimate)	
Deaths:	Males 53.	Females 78.	Total	131
Crude Death-rate	..	..	..	10.4
Comparative Death-rate (allowing for age and sex distribution)	..	..	..	10.6
Death-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	12.4

The comparative figure should be used in comparing the death-rate with that of other Districts or of England and Wales.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 10	(illegitimate)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	.. .. 39
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	.. .. 58



Causes of Death.

					<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>					<u>53</u>	<u>78</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	1	-
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	-	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	2
Respiratory tuberculosis			..	..	1	2
Other tuberculosis		..	..	..	-	3
Cancer	..	..	..	..	4	15
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	-	1
Cerebral haemorrhage		..	..	..	2	11
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	16	14
Other circulatory diseases			..	..	2	2
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)		..	..	..	5	3
Other respiratory diseases			..	..	2	1
Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	..	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			..	..	-	-
Digestive diseases		..	..	..	-	-
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	4	2
Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	-	1
Other puerperal causes		..	..	..	-	-
Congenital causes	..	..	..	..	2	5
Senility	..	..	..	..	4	2
Suicide	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other violence	..	..	..	..	3	3
Other defined causes		..	..	..	3	6
Causes ill-defined or unknown				..	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous reports are still applicable.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time Officer.





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water:-

The Leicester Corporation's mains convey an ample supply of wholesome water throughout the District. During the year some 445 yards of mains have been laid and water has been laid on to the interior of 40 houses which had previously been dependent on yard-taps. Some 140 houses, including 34 scheduled for demolition, still obtain their supply in this manner and are being dealt with steadily. Only 18 houses are now dependent on well-water. No shortage whatever has been experienced.

### Drainage & Sewerage:-

978 yards of sewer have been laid to the Granville House Estate. Schemes for projected improvements, and extensions including improvements at the outfall works are in course of preparation.

There are 22 cesspools in the District. These are in outlying places where public sewers are not available.

### Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District	(1)	Privies	Nil
	(2)	Pail Closets	24
	(3)	Water Closets	4,294

The area is now free from ash-pits.

### Scavenging:-

Refuse is collected weekly by the Council's employees, two covered motor-vehicles being used alternately, one being loaded while the other is tipping on a disused sewage-farm. Disposal is by Controlled Tipping and it is estimated that the land will meet our needs for another three years.


Pail closets are removed and cleansed weekly, and cesspools are emptied fortnightly.

The whole of the cleansing services of the District including street scavenging and watering are under the control of the Sanitary Inspector.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

The Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:-

Total No. of complaints received during the year	..	108
" " " premises visited	.. .. .	692
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	.. .. .	298



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Total No. of inspections	.. .. .	2,350
" " " notices served - Informal	282. Statutory	1. 283
" " " defects remedied after service of notices		253
" " " summonses issued	.. .. .	Nil

An exhaustive report on the details of all this work has been presented by the Sanitary Inspector.

#### Smoke Abatement:-

The District has some 14 factories with chimneys in use. 49 observations lasting from 30 to 60 minutes were made and informal co-operative action was taken whenever necessary. Visits were well received, and arising out of them three firms have installed special plant during the year. No statutory action was called for. Annoyance from open burning of trade refuse has been corrected by offering disposal facilities. A number of firms have now installed incinerators.

#### Shops:-

Eighty per cent of the shops in the District are occupied as dwelling houses, no outside assistance being employed. In one instance an additional sanitary convenience was requested and provided.

#### Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations:-

There are no common Lodging Houses in the District. There are no underground rooms used for sleeping. There are now no Offensive-Trades and there are no Canal Boats. Seven inspections involving three vans are recorded, two others having been abolished during the year. The remaining three vans are satisfactory, being provided with proper sanitary accommodation, dust-bins and town's water.

#### Eradication of Bed-Bugs:-

One Council house and eleven other dwelling houses were disinested, the methods employed being the best available short of Hydrocyanic Acid. Walls were stripped and skirting boards etc. removed, followed by spraying with Insecticide three times at nine day intervals and finally fumigation with Sulphur Dioxide.



The work was carried out by the Council in nine cases and by a Contractor in three.

No disinfecting of belongings was found necessary before removal of tenants to Council Houses. Should such a case arise Hydrocyanic fumigation should be employed.

Tenants of Council Houses are encouraged to report infestation should such arise.

#### Schools:-

The Public Elementary and Intermediate Schools are well maintained and are all provided with the public water supply. At South Wigston suitable sanitary conveniences are desirable in lieu of trough-closets.

#### Swimming Bath:-

Canal water is used after partial filtration, chlorination and frequent changes. It is far from satisfactory.

### H O U S I N G.

#### Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a)	By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b)	By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	..	..	102

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	446
	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. ..	698
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. ..	162
	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. ..	422
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. ..	12
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	150

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. ..	92
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-       |     |
| (a) By Owners .. .. .   | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..  | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-                  |     |
| (a) By Owners .. .. .  | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..   | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. . | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .    | 2 |

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year   | 20  |
| ii. Number of families dwelling therein .. ..   | 20  |
| iii. Number of persons dwelling therein .. ..   | 188 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year  | 6   |
| (c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | 8   |
| ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases   | 62  |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. . | Nil |

Slum Clearance:-

This scheme scheduled 68 houses for demolition, 34 of which have been demolished as individual houses. 12 houses have been built for rehousing. 34 houses remain to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, or as individual houses. 30 houses are under construction for rehousing.





Overcrowding:-

14 houses are under construction for abatement, and interchange of tenancy may be arranged to abate the remaining cases.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

<u>Retailers:</u>	No. on Register .. .. .	66
	No. of inspections of premises ..	38
	No. of contraventions found .. ..	7
	No. of contraventions remedied ..	7
<u>Producers:</u> (including those who retail milk).	No. on Register .. .. .	17
	No. of inspections made .. ..	84
	No. of contraventions - <u>Cleansing</u>	
	Found	2
	Remedied	2
Ditto	<u>Structural Alterations</u>	
	Found	11
	Remedied	9
	<u>Other</u>	
Ditto	Found	7
	Remedied	7

General - Total No. of milch cows in district .. 321

During the year 113 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination at the County Council's laboratory. The results were:- Pasteurised milk, 5 samples up to standard. Methylene Blue test, 108 samples, 9 failures re. 5 milks. Coliform test, 108 samples, 28 failures re. 17 milks, ten of which were produced outside the District. Repeat samples are taken of all unsatisfactory supplies until rectified.

Designated licences granted by the Council:- 1 Pasteurised producer, 1 Supplementary Pasteurised producer, 1 Tuberculin Tested supplementary and 3 Accredited supplementary.

Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in District

Private slaughter houses:-	<u>In January 1937</u>	<u>In December 1937</u>
No. registered	9	9
No. licenced	1	1
No. of inspections of premises		42
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		869



CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight
Number killed (if known)	702	Nil	78	3,224	2,028	
Number inspected	Approximately 80%					
All Diseases except <u>Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	3	-	380 lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	-	-	-	-	371 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.27	-	1.3	.09	-	
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-	50	997 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	2.46	

Meat Stalls:-

No. of inspections      ..      ..      ..      ..      ..      31

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections      ..      ..      ..      ..      ..      111

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or  
prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections      ..      ..      ..      ..      ..      78

State any action taken:-

Informal action	Cleansing	..	..	..	..	6
	Ditto		New Floors	..	..	2
	Ditto		Drainage	..	..	1
	Ditto		Trade Refuse	..	..	12

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified cases of Infectious Disease were as follows:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases notified.</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	55	52	1
Diphtheria	20	20	1
Pneumonia	1	-	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Puerperal Fever	1	-	1
Measles with Pneumonia	-	2	-





One case of OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM came under observation.  
The patient was treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

The TUBERCULOSIS cases and deaths are classified as follows:--

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respir- atory.		Other forms.		Respir- atory.		Other forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 " " 10 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
20 " " 25 "	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35 "	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 " " 45 "	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 " " 55 "	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
55 " " 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	9	8	1	1	1	2	-	3

Four of the deaths occurred in hospitals or sanatoria.  
At the County Council's Laboratory the following examinations  
were made during the year:-

Sputa for tubercle bacilli	..	47
Urine for tubercle bacilli	..	7
Urine (general & bacteriological)		8
Swabs for diphtheria	.. ..	36
Milk examinations	.. ..	121
Sewage and water analyses	..	8
Miscellaneous	.. ..	12
Total:-		<u>239</u>

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories (including Factory-Laundries)	No. of inspections	..	53
	No. of written notices		19
Workshops (including Workshop-Laundries)	No. of inspections	..	26
	No. of written notices		4
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	No. of inspections		Nil
	No. of written notices		<u>Nil</u>
Total:-	Inspections		79
	Written Notices		23





2. <u>Defects:-</u>				<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	8	7
" " ventilation	..	..	..	2	2
Overcrowding	..	..	..	-	-
Want of drainage of floors	..	..		1	-
Other nuisances	..	..	..	5	5
Sanitary accommodation insufficient				2	2
Do: unsuitable or defective				4	4
Do: not separate for sexes				1	1
				<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>
			Total:-	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>

It was not found necessary to refer any matter to H.M. Inspector.

3. No cases of Outwork on Unwholesome Premises came under observation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

9th May, 1938.



# APPENDIX.

## RAINFALL IN 1937.

At Wigston U.D.C. Sewage Farm in the County of Leicester.

Rain Gauge	{	Diameter of Funnel	..	..	..	8 Inches.
		Height of Top above Ground	..	..	..	9 Inches.
		Height of Ground above Sea-Level	..	..	..	256·85 Feet

Month	Total Depth in Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		Number of Days with	
		Inches	Date	·01 ins. or more	·04 ins. or more
JAN.	2·87	·42	19th	24	17
FEB.	2·96	·56	8th	24	17
MAR.	2·42	·35	17th	27	14
APRIL	2·63	·41	21st	16	11
MAY	3·02	·64	21st	15	11
JUNE	1·27	·41	14th	13	6
JULY	3·35	2·40	16th	10	5
AUG.	·70	·29	13th	5	4
SEPT.	1·14	·34	18th	14	7
OCT.	2·92	·95	26th	14	5
NOV.	1·30	·32	9th	16	7
DEC.	1·72	·46	5th	25	11
TOTAL	26·30			203	115

G. F. STACEY,

Surveyor.

1/1/1938.

